

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-15 ISO-00 ACDA-19 NSC-10

AEC-11 AF-10 ARA-16 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NASA-04 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OIC-04 SPC-03 PA-03 PRS-01

RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-15 MBFR-04 USIA-15 SAJ-01 /208 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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USMISSION GENEVA

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DISTO

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: CW - NERVE GAS STORIES

1. WASHINGTON POST OF MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, CARRIED
STORY THAT US ARMY HAS "PUBLICLY REPORTED PLANS TO MANU-
FACTURE BINARY NERVE GAS," "WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE DISPOSAL
OF PRESENT STOCKS OF NERVE AGENTS AS THEY ARE REPLACED BY
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THE BINARIES." NEW YORK TIMES OF SAME DATE HAS SIMILAR

ITEM. (CHEMICAL MUNITIONS DESIGNED ON THE BINARY PRINCIPLE WOULD CONTAIN TWO NON-LETHAL CHEMICAL REACTANTS, WHICH COULD BE STORED AND TRANSPORTED SEPARATELY, AND WHICH WOULD COMBINE ONLY AFTER THE PROJECTILE HAS BEEN FIRED, TO GENERATE A NERVE AGENT.)

2. BINARY MUNITIONS HAVE IN FACT BEEN UNDER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR YEARS IN THE US, AND THE ARMY HAS ADVANCED PLANS FOR PRODUCTION. THIS SYSTEM COULD MITIGATE TECHNICAL, LEGAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH STORAGE AND TRANSPORT OF CHEMICAL MUNITIONS, SHOULD A LATER GOVERNMENT DECISION TO IMPLEMENT PLANS FOR PRODUCTION BE MADE. SUCH A DETERMINATION HAS NOT REPEAT NOT AS YET BEEN MADE, HOWEVER. IF INQUIRIES ON THIS POINT ARE RECEIVED, THEY MAY BE ANSWERED ACCORDINGLY. RUSH

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